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Turkestan and Blagoveshchensk. Of the several new universities which are under consideration, the first to be opened will be those of Perm and Rostov-on-the-Don. The scheme for the University of Irkutsk is to be brought before the Duma in the autumn of 1917, and another university in the Far East is planned for either Vladivostok or Habarovsk. All the towns which have been chosen as new centers of education have already voted sums of money, larger or smaller, according to their wealth. Some of the old universities—viz., those of Odessa and Tomsk, have been allowed to increase the number of their students. Perhaps the most marked reforms are in medical education, since Russia is faced with a greater need for medical staff than any other country. A new degree of candidate of medical science has been founded which, together with eight months' hospital training, entitles the holder to practise. The holder of this degree occupies an intermediate place between the fully qualified doctor and the so-called *feldscher* or nurse (male or female), who is allowed to practise in the absence of a doctor. There are also schools for four more classes of medical staff—disinfectors, maternity nurses, nurses for nervous cases and masseurs. These reforms are already being set in motion, and are to be carried out in the course of the next three years.

DINNER IN MANILA TO VISITING SCIENTIFIC MEN

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Manila:

On February 5, 1917, Dr. John A. Brashear, the noted American maker of photographic lenses and silver-on-mirrors, Dr. A. Swasey, president of the firm that made the mounting of the big Cordoba, Liek, Yerkes, Victoria telescopes, and Dr. John R. Freeman, the American hydraulic engineer, were entertained at a lunch given in their honor at the Manila Hotel by prominent scientists and engineers of Manila. To meet in the far-off Philippine Islands so many friends, enthusiastic for astronomy and for the application of modern machinery and methods to engineering problems was a delightful surprise to the distinguished visitors. José Algué, director of the Weather Bureau, welcomed the guests and acted as toastmaster. The speaker of the occasion was a personal friend of Dr. J. A.

Brashear. Speaking of optical instruments made by Brashear, Rev. M. Selga, well known in America for his connection with the leading American observatories, made the following remark: "There is hardly any remarkable astronomical observatory in America that is not equipped either with a silver-on-mirror, or a lens, or a comet-seeker, or an alt-azimuth or a spectrograph constructed by Brashear. The 8" doublet of Swarthmore College Observatory, the 15" of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa, Canada, the 18" of the Flower Observatory, Philadelphia, Pa., the 20" of Chabot Observatory, Oakland, California, the focus of the astronomical admiration of the visitors at the Panama-Pacific Exhibition, the unique 30" photographic refractor of the Allegheny Observatory are but few among the many high-grade refractors turned out by Brashear. You are all acquainted with the spectrographic investigations of the late Dr. Young, at Princeton, of Dr. G. H. Hale at Kenwood, paving the way for the advance of solar physics and the establishment of the Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory, of Dr. F. Schlesinger at the Allegheny Observatory with the Mellon and Porter spectrograph, of Dr. Frost with the Bruce, of Plaskett at Ottawa, of Dr. Slipher at Flagstaff, and specially of Dr. W. W. Campbell who with the Mills spectrograph has surveyed the northern and southern skies for the spectral characteristics of the stars. Now, one of the vital parts, either the prisms or the lenses, of these unparalleled spectrographs are from Brashear." The guests gathered around the table at 12 o'clock and the steamer was to take the scientific party from Manila to Hongkong at 3 P.M. Few minutes were left to Dr. Brashear to talk on the stars, to Dr. Swasey to give his views about the Far East and to Dr. Freeman to report on the past, present and future condition of the Panama land-slides. The speeches were short, but they were a source of pleasure and delight to more than a hundred guests and will be long remembered.

THE KANSAS CITY MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

As has been already noted in SCIENCE the American Chemical Society will meet at Kansas City from April 10 to 14. The society and hotel headquarters will be at the Hotel Muehlebach. The final and complete program will be sent on or about April 3 to members requesting it. The program of general arrangements is as follows: